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AMBLECOTE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

DEC 6 1956



REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1956



STOURBRIDGE

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1957

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1956.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1956.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 8.6 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 11.9 for 1955. The Live Birth Rate was 12.6 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 11.9 for 1955. There were no Still-births. The Infantile Mortality Rate was Nil per 1000 live births.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Public Health Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	-	-	-	665
Number of Persons per acre	-	-	-	4.5
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident				
Population, middle of 1956)	-	-	-	3000
Number of inhabited houses	-	-	-	974
Average number of persons per house	-	-	-	3.1
Rateable Value	-	-	-	£41,898
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	-	£158

VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

					Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.
			M.	F.	
Live	Legitimate	Total 38 :	21	17	12.6
Births	Illegitimate	— :	—	—	

Still-Births, Legitimate, Total Nil.; Rate per 1000
Total (live and still-births) - - - Nil.

Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1956 - - - 15.7

Deaths - 26—Males, 11 ; Females, 15 ;
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population - - - 8.6
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 - - - 8.2
Death Rate, England & Wales, 1956 - - - 11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - - - Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :
(per 1000 live births) - - - Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—
England & Wales - - - 23.8 per 1000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - 4
Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population 1.3

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	-	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-	Nil.
Total number of Deaths	-	-	26

AGES AT WHICH DEATHS OCCURRED						
Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	4	21

11 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years,
and 9 over 80 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

DISEASES.	1955		1956	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers -	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever -	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever -	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough -	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria -	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System -	-	-	-	-
Other Forms of Tuberculosis -	-	-	-	-
Syphilis -	-	-	-	-
Influenza -	1	1	-	-
Measles -	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis -	-	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis -	-	-	-	-
Cancer -	9	1	2	2
Diabetes -	-	1	-	-
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions -	-	1	-	2
Heart Disease -	4	4	5	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System -	2	1	-	1
Bronchitis -	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia -	-	-	2	-
Other Respiratory Diseases -	-	-	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum -	1	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) -	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis -	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases -	-	-	-	-
Nephritis -	-	-	-	-
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis -	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes -	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth -	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries -	-	1	-	-
Suicide -	-	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents -	-	-	-	-
Other Violent Causes -	2	-	-	1
All other Causes -	3	2	1	1
TOTALS -	23	12	11	15
	35		26	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Mr. H. Piper, who had held the office of Sanitary Inspector since 1906, retired from that post on 30th June, 1956, after completing 50 years service. He has been superseded by Mr. T. A. Wass, who holds all the necessary qualifications, including the Meat Inspector's Certificate.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

As 1938

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

ii (a) Laboratory Facilities :

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist,
Stafford.

Bacteriological Examinations :

Number of Specimens sent for Report	-	11	
	Total.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria (Swabs)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sputum	11	Nil	11

The duty of providing the following services has been laid upon Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, viz :

Health Centres ;
Care of Mothers and Young Children ;
Midwifery ;
Health Visiting ;
Home Nursing ;
Vaccination and Immunisation ;
Ambulance Services ;
Prevention of Illness—care and aftercare ;
Domestic Help.
Blind Persons.

No powers have been delegated to the Council.

HOSPITALS.

GENERAL AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

These are controlled by a Regional Board and are available for the treatment of Patients who have been duly notified.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. As 1938.

(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As 1938.

2. RIVERS & STREAMS. As 1938.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

(ii) Verminous Persons and Premises.

*The particulars will be found in the Report of the
Public Health Inspector.*

(iii) Swimming Baths and Pools. As 1938.

4. SCHOOLS. One Primary School situated within the area, under the jurisdiction of Staffordshire County Council.

5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. As 1938.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956.

1. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	-	-	0
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2. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(A)—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-	Nil.
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—		
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(a) By Owners	-	-	Nil.
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(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners		Nil.
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(B).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-	Nil.
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-	Nil.
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(C).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-	-	Nil.
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	-	-	Nil.
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4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|---|---|---|------|
| (a) | (1) | Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1956) | - | - | - | Nil. |
| | (2) | Number of families dwelling therein | - | | | Nil. |
| | (3) | Number of persons dwelling therein | - | | | Nil. |
| (b) | | Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year | - | - | - | Nil. |
| (c) | (1) | Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year | - | - | - | Nil. |
| | (2) | Number of persons concerned in such cases | - | | | Nil. |
| (d) | | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | - | - | - | Nil. |

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING

(See Report of Public Health Inspector).

SECTION E.**INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

- (a) Milk Supply ;
- (b) Meat and other foods.

(See Report of Public Health Inspector).

- (c), (d) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc.—are administered by the County Council.
- (e) Nutrition : No action has been taken.
- (f) Shell Fish : Little, if any, sold in the District.

SECTION F.
PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
(2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1956.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	AGES.										Cases sent to Isolat'n Hos- pital.	Deaths
		under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	over 65 yrs.
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping-cough ...	5	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	8	-	2	-	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-

5. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. As 1938.

(b) **TUBERCULOSIS, 1956.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 „	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1956 for the Urban District of Amblecote in the County of Stafford.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	4	4	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	45	71	8	—	2
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ..		49	75	8	—	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	2	2				4
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	1	1				9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	12	8	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11						11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	12						12
TOTAL ..		15	11	—	—	—	

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. SIMPKISS,

Medical Officer of Health

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report OF THE Public Health Inspector For the Year 1956.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my first annual report for the year 1956, as follows :—

I commenced duties on the 1st July, 1956, upon the retirement of Mr. Harold Piper.

Sanitary Accommodation

Houses provided with Water Closets	-	961	} 974
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets		13	
Houses provided with separate Water Closets		842	} 974
Houses provided with Water Closets in common		119	
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets		13	

The houses that have Pan and Earth Closets are situated in parts of your district where sewer accommodation is neither available nor practicable.

Removal of Household Refuse

970 Houses out of 974 are provided with suitable portable receptacles for the household ashes and refuse. It has not been found necessary to put into operation a scheme for the provision of Dust Bins by the Council. Notices requiring the replacement of worn out receptacles have been complied with and no proceedings have been necessary. Refuse Removal is carried out by direct labour and the collection is bi-weekly. Disposal is by tipping. The tip which is conveniently situated is used for the disposal of builders and contractors rubbish which quickly covers the household refuse. A horse-drawn vehicle is used for the collection and has proved both efficient and economical.

Collection of Salvage. Salvage is not collected. Parcels of paper can be left at the Council Offices or, if the quantity is sufficient, are called for by arrangement with the Chief Public Health Inspector, Brierley Hill.

Housing

The housing situation presents a difficult problem due to lack of suitable sites. Enquiries are being made with a view to possible development. One house only was in process of erection during the year.

Housing Conditions

The houses in your district may be classified as follows :—

Houses with one Bedroom	-	-	1	} 974
Houses with two Bedrooms	-	-	336	
Houses with three Bedrooms	-	-	552	
Houses with more than three Bedrooms			85	

No houses have been demolished during the year. A survey of the district showed that 68 properties may have to be demolished. The time in which this can be accomplished will depend on the availability of alternative accommodation for the persons displaced. The total number of dwellings provided by the Council is 248. 200 of them are traditional houses and 48 three storey flats. Post-war building has been as follows, viz. :—80 houses and 48 flats. No Repair Notices under the Housing Acts have been issued. 45 Informal and Statutory Notices within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served in respect of miscellaneous defects at 45 houses. No proceedings at the Magistrates' Court were necessary. Rents of most of the houses, excepting those owned by the Council, are controlled.

Improvement Grants. Two applications were made for Grants, one of which was withdrawn. A sum equal to the product of a rate of 3d. in the £ per annum is available for this purpose. Owners of properties which could be improved do not appear to appreciate the conditions on which grants are made.

Overcrowding. Although a number of houses are occupied by two families, there is little actual overcrowding and practically none if the Statutory Table is applied. As stated under the Heading General Statistics the average number of persons per house is 3.1. A majority of applications for Council Houses are from married sons and daughters residing with their parents who wish to have homes of their own. The number of separate families is estimated to be about 1120 accommodated in 974 houses.

Nomadic Caravan Dwellers

As in the previous year, 1956 has been free from visitors.

Verminous Persons and Premises

No premises have been found to be infested and no complaint of infestation has been received.

Water Supply

All premises, excepting one, obtain a continuous and wholesome supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the mains of the Stourbridge and District Water Board of which Amblecote Council is one of the constituent authorities. It is pumped direct from Bore Holes at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow, both of which are in your district. A further bore hole is situated in an adjoining area. Samples of water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are submitted at frequent intervals to Laboratories provided by the County Councils of Staffordshire and Worcestershire. The tests show a certain hardness but otherwise the water is of excellent quality for drinking and domestic purposes.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Milk

Milk is produced at two farms in your area. It is taken for treatment direct to a Dairy in an adjoining district. There is no Dairy in Amblecote. As the Urban District is a Specified Area all milk sold is either tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised. Supplementary Licenses to retail Milk in Amblecote have been issued to nine persons whose premises are outside the district and 15 Shopkeepers within the District have each received a Retailer's Licence.

Food—Public Health (Meat) Regulations

No Slaughter-house is in use in your district. One, now delapidated, was used regularly up to 1939. There are three retail Butchers. They obtain their meat as follows :—(1) from Dudley (Dudley Co-operative Society) ; (2) from Wolverhampton Abbatoir ; (3) from Kidderminster. In each instance there is 100% inspection by qualified Inspectors. The quality of meat retailed is high. There have been no seizures or surrender of unsound meat. Very few pigs are fed by ordinary householders. No notices to slaughter swine, etc., on private premises were received during 1956.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. One person only is licensed to slaughter or stun animals in a Slaughter-house. There is no Knacker Yard in your district.

Food Hygiene

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. All the food shops and canteens have been inspected regularly and it has not been found necessary to take any legal proceedings.

Food is sold by retail in the following shops :—

Business premises only—Grocers 5 ; Butchers 1 ; Greengrocer 1. Combined shops and dwelling houses—Grocers and General 9 ; Butchers 2 ; Greengrocers 3 ; Sweets, Tobacco, etc., 3 ; Fried Fish 2 ; Cafe 1.

Worcestershire County Council have a Cooking Centre where meals are prepared and served.

Eleven factories have Canteens for their employees.

One "Model" Bakery (Factory) is in operation from which Bread is distributed over a wide area.

No Ice Cream is manufactured in your area. 20 premises are registered for the storage and sale thereof. They are each fitted with a suitable "Conservator." The premises comprise 17 Shops, 1 Cafe, 1 Sports Pavilion and 1 Public House.

One market, a private one, operates for the sale and distribution of agricultural produce. It is also used as an Egg Packing Station. There is no public market nor are there any stalls for street trading.

Unsound Food

No unsound food has been seized or surrendered.



Prevention of Damage by Pests

The following premises have been treated for infestations of Rats and Mice, viz. :—Factories 4, Hospital 1, Dwelling Houses 6. The Factories are, by arrangement, treated quarterly. The work is performed by an "Operator" employed by Brierley Hill Urban District Council. The assistance in this direction of the Chief Public Health Inspector at Brierley Hill, is appreciated. A charge to cover the cost of treatment is made in respect of premises other than dwelling houses. The Sewers have not been treated as tests proved negative.

Smoke and Atmospheric Pollution

At one factory the emission of smoke from the boiler plant has given rise to complaint due to the plant being overloaded. The Firm in question are proceeding with the electrification of the Central Heating system in order to ease the load on the plant.

Coal fired annealing furnaces at one of the Foundries has caused a certain amount of smoke nuisance. Plans are in hand to replace them with oil fired furnaces.

Fumes from Iron Foundries still give rise to complaint, although the best type of core oils are being used. Under certain atmospheric conditions the fumes do not disperse into the atmosphere very rapidly.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

No premises are licensed.

Retirement of Sanitary Inspector

I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying tribute to Mr. Harold Piper's unprecedented service to the Council. He was appointed Sanitary Inspector to the Amblecote Urban District Council in April, 1906, and served in that capacity a little over 50 years. During that period the major sanitary improvements that have taken place are the conversion of all pan and earth closets to water closets where practicable. The provision of a wholesome supply of water to all premises within the area and the demolition of a large number of unfit houses. These facts alone speak for the valuable work carried out during his period of office.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Clerk of the Council and the office staff for the assistance rendered to me.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee my thanks for their confidence and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. A. WASS,

Public Health Inspector.